

50X1-HUM

CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM IN SCIENCE

[editorial]

MEDITSINKIY RABOTNIK

#28, 6 Apr 52

50X1-HUM

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information

50X1-HUM

CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM IN SCIENCE

[Editorial]

Medical science in the USSR is based on marxism-leninism. It combines materialism with the highest degree of humanitarianism and a struggle against all kinds of harmful idealistic deviations. In forging ahead, it utilizes the heritage of Sechenov, Botkin, Pavlov, and Lenin. Cooperation between workers in various scientific fields is indispensable for scientific progress, but criticism and self-criticism are necessary.

Criticism and self-criticism comprise the communist method of educating the ranks. It is a mistake to think that emphasis on their use constitutes a passing phase. By using this method, the Communist Party develops in Soviet people a communist morale as well as bolshevist ideas and principles.

An example of communist criticism worthy of imitation is the combined session of the Academy of Sciences, USSR, and the Academy of Medical Sciences, USSR, which was devoted to problems of I. P. Pavlov's teaching, and subjected to criticism the errors committed by Beritashvili, Orbeli, and Anokhin. During the time which elapsed since that session, a deep and thorough-going reorganization of scientific research and educational activity has taken place.

However, at some institutes a due measure of criticism and self-criticism is still lacking.

For instance, at the Smolensk Medical Institute serious shortcomings in educational work remained unnoticed for a long time. Although the members of the scientific council of this higher educational institution were aware that Prof Girshberg's lectures (Chair of Hospital Therapy) were presented on an extremely low ideological level, he was not freed of his duties as professor in charge of that chair for a long time.

- 1 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information

At the Institute of Pediatrics, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, there was inadequate cooperation between research workers. The situation was so bad that occasionally monographs written by associates of the institute were not discussed at all and were even published without knowledge of the scientific council.

At the Pyatigorsk Balneological Institute, Prof Bernshteyn and his assistant Kaybanov forged the results of experiments on the action of radon.

A short time ago, the Ministry of Public Health, USSR, disclosed that nepotism is rampant at certain scientific research institutes and higher educational institutions. The family atmosphere which developed at such institutes is an obstacle to criticism: people are evaluated on the basis of personal relationship and friendship rather than on any sound political and business-like basis.

Thus, criticism at the scientific council of the Tomsk Medical Institute became impossible, because several chairs are occupied by relatives of Director Khodkevich and because there is much nepotism besides. It is not surprising that under these conditions Prof. Nagorskiy was able to present for a long time to his students pseudo-scientific speculations on the action of cosmic rays.

When scientific worker Leykina presented a dissertation for the degree of Cand of Sci at the Ryazan' Medical Institute, not a single member of the scientific council argued against any of the points raised by her. When a secret vote was taken, however, half of the members voted against her. Does not the reluctance to criticize Leykina's work openly indicate an unprincipled attitude?

Prof. P. F. Arkhangel'skiy (Tashkent) sent an article to "Vestnik Oftalmologiyi", in which he sharply criticized some assertions published on the pages of this journal over the signature of Prof. Samoylov, who was editor of "Vestnik Oftalmologiyi" at that time. "Vestnik Oftalmologiyi" printed the article, but did not answer Prof. Arkhangel'skiy's criticism or comment on it.

- 2 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information

In view of the instances given above and the general aspects of the matter, the medical <sup>community</sup> public may very well expect that the Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences, USSR, and the Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health, USSR, initiate more adequate leadership as far as criticism and self-criticism at scientific research institutes and higher medical educational institutions are concerned, and also that they try to raise the level of scientific work. At present both are lagging in the performance of their high organizational functions in that connection.

- E N D -

- 3 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Security Information